I'LL STAB HIM THROUGH THE HEART!
I HAVE TO AVENGE MY FATHER AND THE OTHERS.
YOU PROMISED. LEND ME YOUR SWORD.
NIRR-SUS.

I CAN DO IT.
I SWEAR I WON'T DIE BEFORE BECOM-ING YOUR BRIDE.
WAIT, NOW.
ALLOW ME TO SPEAK WITH HIM BEFORE I LEND YOU THAT SWORD.
MY GRUDGE AGAINST THIS MAN BEGIN BEFORE YOURS, YOU KNOW.
WHAT'S YOUR GRUDGE?
WHY, HE CALLED ME A THIRD-RATE PAINTER!

THE HEROIC LEGEND OF ARSLAN

CHAPTER 36: THE CHARACTER OF A KING

HE'S APPROACHING? HAS HE GIVEN UP, THEN?
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
HILMES, YOUR HIGHNESS!!

...
HOW DID YOU KNOW?
...I HAD MY SUSPICIONS, BUT TO THINK I WAS SPOT ON...
HIS HIGHNESS...?
IS HE A PRINCE?!
YOU CAN DIE AT THE HANDS OF ROYALTY. CONSIDER IT AN HONOR.
WELL, NO MATTER. YOU WOULD HAVE LEARNED OF IT SOONER OR LATER.
LET US BE GRATEFUL THAT THIS CONVERSATION WILL BE THAT MUCH SHORTER.
NEIGH
NEIGH
NEIGH

ABANDON ARSLAN AND SERVE ME—THE RIGHTFUL KING.
I'LL GRANT YOU AN IMPORTANT POSITION.
...IMPORTANT? IN WHAT WAY?
PERHAPS EVEN PRIME MINISTER...
MARZBAN, COURT SECRETARY...
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA!
...!
WHY DO YOU LAUGH?!

WHILE I APPRECIATE THE GENEROUS OFFER, I AM AFRAID I MUST DECLINE.
WELL? WOULD YOU SERVE ME?
AHEM. FORGIVE ME.
I ABANDONED MY LIFE AS A RECLUSE FOR GOOD REASON. MY LIFELONG WISH HAS BEEN TO HAVE A LORD OF THE HIGHEST CALIBER...
...WHY?
...AND PRESENTLY, I HAVE SUCH A LIEGE. WHILE I HATE TO DISAPPOINT, I CERTAINLY CANNOT LET THIS OPPORTUNITY SLIP THROUGH MY FINGERS.

ARE YOU IMPLYING THAT I AM OF A LOWER CALIBER THAN ANDREA-GORRAS' BRAT?!
YOU...
HIS HIGHNESS ARGLAN, AT THE YOUNG AGE OF FOURTEEN, ALREADY SURPASSES YOUR CHARACTER!
YES, AND HOW !!
WHY?!
WHY DID YOU ALLY YOURSELF WITH THE LUSITANIANS, HILMES, YOUR HIGHNESS?!

CORPSES OF PARISIAN SOLDIERS, PILED UP ON THE BATTLE-FIELD/
YET YOU USED KHARLAN TO ORCHES-TRATE THE PARISIAN DEFEAT AT RITROPSTEINE /
THE ATROCI-TIES THE LUSITANIANS COMMITTED IN MARYAM/
THE HAVOC THEY WOULD WREAK UPON PARIS/ YOU SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BOTH OF THESE FULL WELL/
VILLAGES OF INNOCENT PARISIAN CITIZENS, BURNED/
ECBRTANA, FALLEN INTO CHAOS/ FOR WHAT REASON WOULD YOU DO THIS?/
ALL NECESSARY SACRIFICES TO RESTORE THE RIGHTFUL ROYAL LINE!!
SOON, THE RIGHTFUL KING, HILMES, WILL REMOVE HIS MASK AND LIBERATE PARS FROM THE LUSITANIANS !!

YOU SAY THE PEOPLE OF PARS ARE "INNOCENT"?!
HAVE THEY NOT KNELT BEFORE AN UNWORTHY KING FOR THE LAST SIXTEEN YEARS?!
HAVE THEY NOT REVERED A USURPER AS KING?!
IS IT NOT THE NATURAL ORDER OF THINGS FOR I, THE RIGHTFUL KING, TO RIGHT THEIR SINS?!
SIGH
WELL, NOW...
DOES HE MEAN TO SAY THAT THE PEOPLE OF PARS HAVE NOT EVEN THE RIGHT TO LIVE, UNLESS THEY ACKNOWLEDGE HIM AS KING?
THERE IS ONE MORE MATTER THAT DOES NOT SIT WELL WITH ME.
HIS HIGHNESS PARSIAN PISKED THAT I DO HIM THE FAVOR OF BECOMING HIS VASSAL.
HOWEVER, YOU COMMAND IT OF ME, WITHOUT RISKING MY THOUGHTS.

WHAT IS WRONG WITH MY COMMANDING YOU?
I AM THE SON OF OSROES V.
TO A CONTRARIAN SUCH AS MYSELF, THAT IS QUITE OFF-PUTTING.
HIS ARROGANCE PRESUMPTUOUSNESS?
WHAT? IT WASN'T ONE OF THEM
BOTH TO YOU AND TO ALL PARTHIANS!!
BUT HE'S BEING INSULTING!!
WRT, ALFRID/ YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE QUITE TROUBLESOME
"NO TROUBLE"
"ARTIFEX"
MY NARSUS WILL NEVER BE YOUR VASSAL!!
MX MX..
SO THE LORD OF DRYLAL DESPITE HIS POSITION AS A DISTINGUISHED NOBLE, HAS A PREDILECTION FOR BANDIT WOMEN OF LOW BIRTH?

YOU DO NOT NEED TO SHOUT.
MY MOTHER WAS A FREED WOMAN, NO DIFFERENT THAN YOU.
WHAT??? "MOBILE" ??
MRR-SUS. YOU'RE A MOBILE ??

HMMP YOU HAVE NOT TOLD THE GIRL ABOUT ANDRRODORRS' BIRTH?
WHO ARE YOU??
...WAIT. WHAT'S ALL THIS ABOUT PRINCE ARSLAN'S VASSAL TOO?

THAT IS NOT THE WISDOM OF A MONARCH, BUT THE CUNNING OF A COWARD.
HIDING BEHIND A MASK TO BECOME AN AGENT OF THE LUSITRAINS, THEN REMOVING THE MASK TO MISGUERIDE AS A LIBERATOR, AND PROCLAIMING YOURSELF AWAY OF PARS...
COW-ARD.
WERE YOU UNABLE TO ADMIT IT, BECAUSE YOU ARE ASHAMED OF THE FACT THAT THE ONE YOU "PRINCE" YOU CARRY ON YOUR SHOULDERS IS THE BEST OF A USURPER?
WHAT ??
YOU ARE THE COWARD.

RIGHT-FUL, NOT RIGHTFUL. I CARE NOT EITHER WAY!
YOU WOULD SURRENDER YOUR RIGHTFUL KING?!
HAVE YOU NO SHAME ?!
EVEN IF THE BLOOD OF THE ROYAL FAMILY OF PARS RUNS NOT THROUGH HIS VEINS, IT IS A WORTHY SHAH WHO RULES BENEVOLENTLY AND WHO IS SUPPORTED BY HIS PEOPLE!!
WHAT QUALIFICA-TION COULD BE MORE IMPORTANT THAN THAT IN A KING?!

SILENCE!! PARS IS MEANT TO BE GOVERNED BY THE DESCENDANTS OF THE HERO KING KAIYKHUSRAW!!
WOULD YOU DENY EVEN THAT?!
BEFORE KING KOTYK-HUSRAW, PARS'S WIFE GOVERNED BY THE SHAKE KING ZHARIC
AND BEFORE THAT, BY THE SHAH KING JAMSHID
SILENCE!!!
KING KAIYKHUSRAW DID NOT CARRY THE BLOOD OF KINGS WHO CAME BEFORE HIM!
SILENCE! SILENCE! SILENCE!!!
YOU HAVE MADE YOUR THOUGHTS CLEAR, NERSUS.
YOU ARE AN INSUBORDINATE WHELP SCHEMING TO DESTROY PERSIAN TRADITION AND THE KINGSHIP.
I WILL SLICE OFF YOUR HEAD AND CUT OUT YOUR TONGUE MYSELF!!

NARSUS, BE CARE-FUL.../
STAY OUT OF THIS, MEN.
AS YOU WISH, YOUR HIGH-NESS!
THE OVER-SIZED BOY OVER THERE.
YOU.
AS A KNIGHT OF PARIS, YOU ARE NOT TO LAY A HAND ON THE WOMAN.
LET ME ADD ONE MORE THING TO YOUR ORDERS FROM *HIS HIGHNESS.*
ME?!

THIS IS A MATTER OF THE HONOR OF THE SWAN.
DO AS HE SAYS.
IT'S HIS DYING WISH.
GA-GAN
SWISH
DIE ...
...NARSUS!!
FH-THUD

FLASH
!!
SNAP

WHAT...!?
D-RIGHT!!
NOW WE MAKE OUR ESCAPE, ALFRED!!
YOUR MISSIONS!!
SACRIFICE!!
NARSUS!! THIS WAS YOUR PLAN ALL ALONG, WASN'T IT!?
GH!!

IT JUST SO HAPPENS THAT I DO NOT HAVE A SWORD I COULD DIRECT AT THE RIGHTFUL SHAH/
DAMN YOU!!
KNAVE/
RUMBLE
RRRRUMBLE
AFTER THEEEM !!
CLANG
I APOLOGIZE, ALFARID.
I STOLE YOUR OPPORTUNITY FOR REVENGE.
NO, IT'S ALL RIGHT.
RIGHT NOW, I'M MORE SURPRISED BY ALL THIS TALK OF PRINCES/

I'LL EXPLAIN EVERY-THING LATER.
THAT SILVER MASK'S TRUE NAME IS HEAVES... ...AND THE THINGS OF WHICH HE SPOKE...
I WOULD ASK YOU TO NEVER REVEAL THESE TWO THINGS TO ANOTHER SOUL.
HIS REAL NAME, AND THE THINGS HE SPOKE OF...

ALL RIGHT. I PROM-ISE/
IF IT'S WHAT YOU WANT, NARSUS, I'LL NEVER SPEAK OF IT TO ANYONE/
YOU SWEAR THIS ON THE HONOR OF THE ZOT CLAN?
ON THE HONOR OF THE ZOT CLAN/

脱兎
THIS MEANS WE'RE BOUND TOGETHER BY THIS SECRET FOR LIFE.

YES, SIR!
YOU GO FIND ALERT SIR ZANDEH!
I'LL SLOW HIM DOWN!
WE FOUND HIM!
IT'S NAR-SUS!
FWOO
THOK

?!
CLATTER
CLATTER
THUD
SKID
FOR AN ARROW TO FLY WITH SUCH POWER...!
GASP

CREAK
CREAK
CREAK
CREAK
CREAK
CREAK
DR...
THRUNK
THRUNK
THRUNK

WAH!
WAH!
SLIDE
...!

SIR NAR-SUS !!
YOU OWE ME ONE, NARSUS.

THANK YOU. YOU'RE WELL, ELAM.
SIR NARSUS, THANK GOOD-NESS YOU ARE SAFE!
DO NOT SPEAK SO HAUGHTILY, DARYUN, WHEN YOU BARELY MADE IT IN TIME!
BY THE WAY...
DID THEY? THAT IS A RELIEF.
IS HIS HIGH-NESS WITH YOU?
HE IS WITH GIEVE AND FARANGIS. THEY WENT AHEAD TO PESHA-WAR.
WHO IS THIS WOMAN?
I'M ALFARID.
SHE IS... ERM...

NARSUS' WIFE!
NO !!!
IT'S A LONG STORY...
YES. WE'RE NOT OFFICIALLY MARRIED...
AAAA RRRGH !!!!
IN TRUTH, I'M JUST HIS MISTRESS RIGHT NOW.

IT'S ALL HER INVEN-TION//
NO, NO, NO!//
I'VE DONE NOTH-ING!//
I-I-I-I AM NO SUCH THING/ THIS GIRL IS THE DAUGHTER OF THE JOT CLAN'S CHIEFTAIN, AND I SIMPLY HAPPENED TO SAVE HER FROM THAT DAMN SILVER MASK, AND THAT IS THE EXTENT OF OUR RELATIONSHIP!!!!
YOU SEEM AWFULLY PANICKED.
OH, MARIANA, YOU DON'T HAVE TO HIDE OUR RELATION-SHIP/
I SLEPT IN A ROOM NEXT TO HER'S, BUT THAT IS ALL... I ASSURE YOU I HAVE NO UNTOWARD INTENTIONS//
...WELL... WHAT'S DONE IS DONE, NARSUS.
WHAT IS THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?/ I HAVEN'T DONE ANY-THING//
OH? SHUT-TING HER UP?
DON'T SAY ANOTHER WORD!//
I'VE DONE NOTH-ING/ TRULY!//
ENOUGH OF YOUR BAD-GERING, DARYUN!//
THAT'S RIGHT, ELRA/ SAY SOME-THING TO THIS...

HIS HIGHNESS IS WAITING AT PESHAWAR.
LET US MAKE HASTE, SIR DIRIYUN.
ARE YOU BRINGING THIS GIRL TO PESHAWAR, THEN?
AH, YES! I FORGOT!

OH, YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT THAT.
WHY DON'T YOU RETURN TO YOUR PEOPLE?
ALFARÐ, YOU MUST TAKE YOUR FATHER'S PLACE AS CHIEFTAIN OF THE ZOT CLAN, YES?
I HAVE AN OLDER BROTHER.
MY HALF-SIBLING. HE'S AS SMART AS HE IS MEAN.
IF I RETURNED, WE WOULD FIGHT, AND I'D EITHER TURN RIGHT BACK AROUND AND LEAVE, OR BE CHASED OUT!
SO YOU SEE, THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT/ ONWARD TO PESHAWAR!
YOU THINK THIS WILL ERASE MY WORRIES ...?
...?